

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 4, 10, 12, 14 and 16-18 are amended and claim 11 is canceled. Claim 4 is amended to correct its dependency in view of the noted objection of being improperly dependent. Claim 10 is amended to include subject matter similar to claim 1. Claim 14 is amended to an independent form in view of allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Claims 12, 16, 17 and 18 are amended to correct their dependency in view of the amendment of claims 10 and 14 and the cancellation of claim 11. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for indicating claims 1-9 and 19-22 allowable. Applicants also thank Examiner Nguyen for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14-16. By this Response, Applicants amend claim 14 to in independent form. Claims 12, 15, 16 and 17 are dependent on claim 14, thus are allowable as well. Claims 13 and 18 are dependent on claims 12 and 17, respectively, and thus are allowable by virtue of the dependency of claims 12 and 17 on allowable claim 14. Claim 10 is amended to include subject matter previously presented in claim 1, which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner on page 4, third paragraph of the Office Action dated June 5, 2002.

II. Objection to Claims

The Office Action states that claims 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the claims are rewritten to overcome this objection.

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III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the prior art of record and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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